



**THREE2SIX**  
Refugee Children's Education Project

*Friends of  
Three2six  
Newsletter*

**Volume 18**



**JUNE 2020**  
**NEWSLETTER**

## Inside

- Back to school
- MSF Training
- Safety at school
- Food distribution
- World Refugee Day
- Three2Six in the media
- COVID-19 funding
- Three2Six has a new Board
- Staff update

## Back to school

After nearly 3 months at home, our children returned to school, under very different conditions to the ones they left. Our children enforce social distancing on the bus, at break time and in the classroom, wear their masks at school and actively wash their hands all the time. To allow for social distancing, we have divided the children into two groups and have added Saturday to the school week. One group comes on Monday/Wednesday/Friday and the second on Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday. They are also back at school an extra hour a day to make up for lost time during the lockdown period. They have been wonderful at getting used to the "new normal" - they are teaching us how to be accepting of what's happening around the world.

Our teachers have done exemplary work during the lockdown and following their return to school.





## MSF Training



On the 3rd of June, our teachers attended a training of trainers hosted by Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) before the learners went back. The training focused on what COVID is, where it originated from, the symptoms, transmission, and prevention measures. The teachers learned a lot which they have been able to educate the children on since our campuses have reopened.

## Safety at school



Before the lockdown in March 2020, our children were briefed by the Sacred Heart College school nurse about how to protect themselves against the spread of the virus, using masks and the correct way to wash hands. Now that we're back at school, we've established a strict hygiene protocol to make sure our children and staff members are protected. Our staff and children have their temperature taken on entry. Wearing a mask is compulsory. They observe social distancing in the classroom, at breaktime and on the bus, and wash their hands regularly.

We also ensure that the questions that are sent home to parents about the health of their children have been completed and that they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms. Any child or staff that is reported sick is closely monitored to ensure everyone's safety.





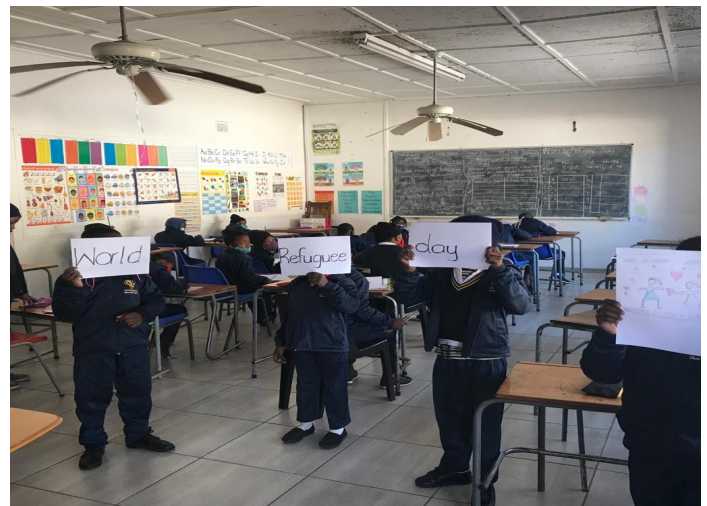
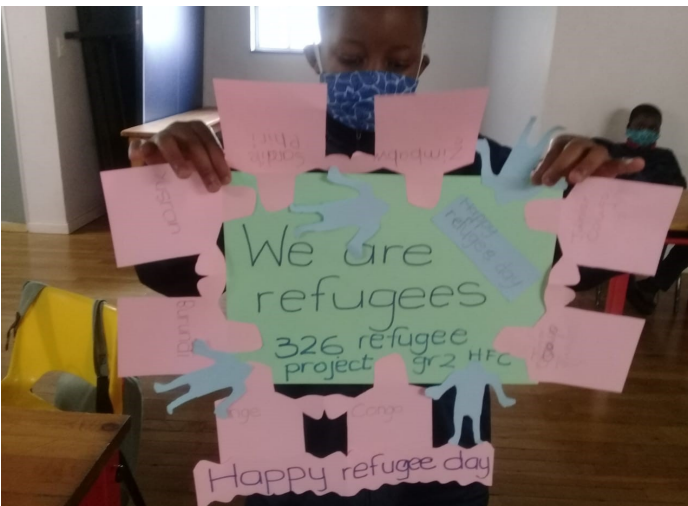
## Food distribution



On the 6th and 8th of June, our campuses organised a distribution for our families. Food parcels that were donated by the South African National Zakah Fund (SANZAF) and others from the West Street Mosque were handed out to the families along with soya donated by CAN Observatory, masks donated by the 10 million mask project through Johannesburg in your pocket, soaps donated by the French Lemon, hand sanitizers and educational materials for our Grade 1s.

Once again, we would like to thank our partners for their generous donations that offered great relief to our families during lockdown.

## World Refugee Day



World Refugee Day is celebrated yearly on June 20th, to raise awareness on the situation of refugees around the world. Our children spent some time talking about what it means to be a refugee, the rights of a refugee, reflecting on where they come from and reflecting on the need to be proud of where they're from, to understand more about their situation in South Africa.

Some children also wrote about their experience as refugees:

“ - Being a refugee is very hard. You move from your home to a new home even though you loved your old home. But you must know that you are in a safe home and love the home you are in.

- I do not like the way they treat people who are not from this country.
- It's very hard for us non South-Africans to get ID papers, even birth registrations.
- If you are given an asylum seeker permit, you can get into a new school or get a job.

- Refugees suffer a lot in other countries because it's not their own country. Some do not have jobs because they do not belong to the country. Some refugees who are born here are still not welcomed.
- We, refugees, are loving people. We must also be treated as South Africans."

## Three2Six in the media

**SOUTH AFRICA**

**Project Title:** Three2Six  
**Project partner:** Sacred Heart College  
**Grant:** Euros 135,022.00  
**Funding Institution:** Misericordia

Thousands of unaccompanied refugee children in Johannesburg are staying at home because they cannot access state schools due to a lack of adequate documentation. Constitutionally and according to the Children's Act, they are entitled to an education in South Africa. Urgent action is needed in a context of immigration where refugee and migrant children are at risk to be excluded to their right to education and suffer of discrimination.

Three2Six's goal is to provide access to quality bridging education for refugee and migrant children and to support them to integrate into a public school. The project supports vulnerable refugee and migrant children (boys and girls) from ages 5 to 14 who, for various reasons, cannot access government schools in the Observatory/Howick/Hillrow areas of Johannesburg.

In 2019 the project Three2Six continued its work for the education of refugee and migrant children in Johannesburg, accommodating 225 children in 5 classes, from Grade 1 to Grade 5. The program has provided them with basic skills (reading, writing and mathematics) for their integration into formal schooling and "Life Skills" for their holistic personal growth. A mixed grade class for children with special needs is also provided. Each child is provided daily with a snack and a meal, uniforms, textbooks, and stationery.

**Project main figures:**

- 227 children supported towards their retention in education.
- 13 Teachers employed.
- 380 individuals (learners, teachers, and community members) have improved understanding on the issues faced by refugee and migrant communities.
- 227 children provided with a meal, stationery and resources to ensure their ability to learn.

**OUR PROJECTS**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

Three2Six has been featured in a number of wonderful publications, for which we are very excited and grateful. Media coverage helps us reach more people to tell them about the work we do for our children.

The World Education Blog: Colin Northmore: Helping immigrant students in South Africa exercise their right to education (published in the run-up to the launch of the UNESCO GEM report)

<https://gemreportunesco.wordpress.com/2020/06/02/colin-northmore-helping-immigrant-students-in-south-africa-exercise-their-right-to-education/?fbclid=IwAR2UrigOpV24KRiTUCJxwhq-22tsnN3-NQdJmtqelMYeZJk1Jp9PQ0gR20>

Three2Six is supported by FMSI - the Fondazione Marista per la Solidarieta Internazionale Onlus. We are proud to be featured in their 2019 annual report. To download, click here: [https://fmsi.ngo/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Annual\\_Report\\_2019\\_FMSI\\_EN.pdf](https://fmsi.ngo/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Annual_Report_2019_FMSI_EN.pdf)

The Southern Cross: Covid-19 no bar to school's refugee project

<https://www.scross.co.za/2020/03/read-the-southern-cross-free-during-the-crisis/>

The Marists of Champagnat blog: Emergency Response to the COVID-19 pandemic at the Sacred Heart College

[https://champagnat.org/en/emergency-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic-at-the-sacred-heart-college/?fbclid=IwAR04Hnc0TviKWGyLxhM\\_15lF6H3DwMvEuVMw\\_u-oJts47Zx3gQDrEp5SaU](https://champagnat.org/en/emergency-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic-at-the-sacred-heart-college/?fbclid=IwAR04Hnc0TviKWGyLxhM_15lF6H3DwMvEuVMw_u-oJts47Zx3gQDrEp5SaU)

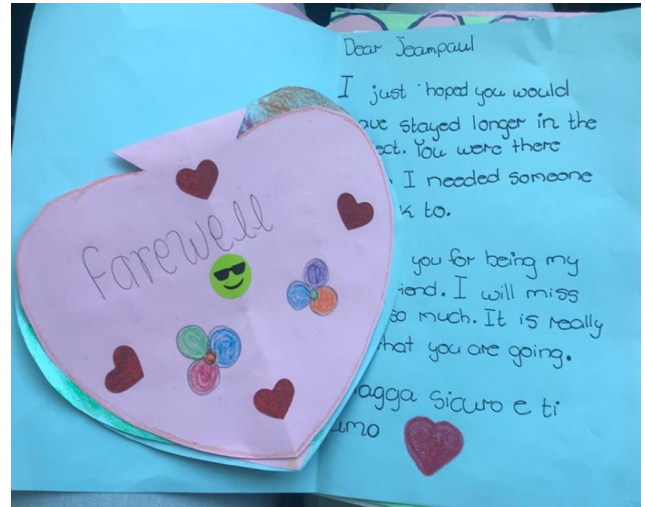
## COVID-19 funding

The project is delighted to have started a partnership with the Maitri Trust whose extremely generous donation will greatly contribute to funding the COVID-19 response.

Our thanks also go to the Holy Family Sisters who generously donated to the project, as well as to all the private donors who showed their support to us this month by making financial contributions.

## Three2Six has a new Board

The Three2Six Board, which is a sub-committee of the Sacred Heart Board of Governors, has recently been reconstituted. It held its first meeting this month. The role of this sub-committee is to provide oversight and governance functions for the project, and ensure that the project meets its mission and objectives.



Our finance officer, Lethabong Khalo, left the project at the end of the month to focus on his personal projects. He had joined Three2Six at the end of May last year. We wish him all the best.

At the end of June, we bid farewell to our Italian volunteer Gianpaolo. He joined us in January to assist at the Holy Family College campus. He integrated very well as part of the Three2Six family! We are very sad to see him go but very grateful to have had him here.

### Get involved in our campaigns

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